

Message Text

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FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NYE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNNU, ENGR, TECH, IN

SUBJECT: TARAPUR RE-RACKING STUDY

1. J.C. SHAH HAS CALLED OUR CONGEN FIVE TIMES IN PAST WEEK TO EXPRESS IAEC'S CONCERN OVER RENEWED DELAYS IN MOVING AHEAD WITH TARAPUR RE-RACKING STUDY. YESTERDAY HE ASKED THAT WE INFORM DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY NYE THAT THE IAEC IS MOST CONCERNED THAT ANY FURTHER DELAY IN THE RE-RACKING STUDY SERIOUSLY RISKS PROLONGED SHUTDOWN OF AT LEAST ONE OF THE TARAPUR REACTORS. SETHNA WAS OUT OF BOMBAY AND THEREFORE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION BUT FROM OUR TALKS WITH HIM LAST WEEK CONGEN HAS NO DOUBT THAT HE SHARES SHAH'S ANXIETY.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY CONGEN WAS DEEPLY DISTRESSED TO LEARN FROM A TELECON WITH CLINT BASTIN THAT THE DOE IS AGAIN STYMIED BECAUSE THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO CLEAR THE POOL BUMP UP AGAINST STRICTURES IN THE DOE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING OUR FEASIBILITY STUDY. CONGEN EXPLAINED TO BASTIN THAT THE IAEC HAD UNDERSTOOD AFTER THE DOE/GE TEAM VISIT IN THE FIRST HALF OF JULY THAT THE U.S.G. WOULD HELP TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEM OF POOL CLEARANCE. THE IAEC RECOGNIZED AT THAT TIME THAT THE STUDY AGREEMENT HAD NOT FORESEEN THIS PROBLEM; THEY EXPLAINED THAT UNDER THEIR PROCEDURES IT WOULD BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE

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TO PROCURE THE EQUIPMENT TO CLEAR THE POOL IN TIME TO MEET THE FEBRUARY DEADLINE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW RACKS. CONSEQUENTLY FOR THE PAST FORTY DAYS THEY HAVE BEEN COUNTING ON U.S.G. ASSISTANCE FOR THIS EFFORT.

3. THE TWO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS ARE: (A) THE NON-AVAILABILITY OF

REPRODUCIBLE DRAWINGS FOR THE INTERIM RACKS AND (B) THE CONTINUING DELAY IN THE SHIPMENT OF THE CUTTER CHOPPER AND THE DESPATCH OF TECHNICIANS TO TRAIN INDIANS IN ITS OPERATION.

4. THE IAEC HAD HOPED TO HAVE THE REPRODUCIBLE DRAWINGS BY AUGUST 1 SO THAT TENDERS COULD BE PUT OUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15. THEY RECONCILED THEMSELVES TO WHAT THEY CONSIDERED A MAXIMUM DELAY WITH ARRIVAL ON AUGUST 18 WHEN JOHN MURPHY WAS EXPECTED TO HAND CARRY THE REPRODUCIBLES TO BOMBAY. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE REPRODUCIBLES CANNOT GET HERE UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER AND IT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE LATE SEPTEMBER BEFORE THE TENDERS CAN BE LAUNCHED. THE CHAIRMAN OF

INDIA'S LARGEST EQUIPMENT BUILDER IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD TOLD THE CONGEN LAST WEEK IT IS QUITE CERTAIN THAT HIS FIRM WOULD REQUIRE MINIMUM OF FOUR MONTHS TO CONSTRUCT THE INTERIM RACKS. HE CAUTIONED THAT ANY FURTHER DELAY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RESULT IN A PROLONGED REACTOR SHUTDOWN.

5. IF THE IAEC LEARNS THAT THE REPRODUCIBLES HAVE NOT YET BEEN SHIPPED AND THAT JOHNNY MURPHY IS NOW SEARCHING FOR A FRIENDLY PANAM PILOT TO HAND CARRY THEM TO BOMBAY THEIR CONSTERNATION WILL QUITE CERTAINLY DEEPEN. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE FIND AN EFFECTIVE AND RELIABLE MEANS FOR DELIVERING THE REPRODUCIBLES TO BOMBAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. REGARDING THE CUTTER CHOPPER, SHAH COULD ONLY REPEAT THAT ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF THE LEEWAY IN HIS SCHEDULE FOR INSTALLATION OF THE NEW RACKS HAS NOW BEEN CONSUMED. HE FEELS THAT FURTHER DELAY WILL CERTAINLY GIVE RISE TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE AS TO THE STEPS THE IAEC IS TAKING TO OVERCOME THE DELAYS IN CLEARING THE POOLS.

7. CONGEN URGES THAT DEPARTMENT AGAIN INTERVENE WITH THE DOE TO BREAK THE IMPASSE. WE HAVE BEEN GETTING BETTER COOPERATION THAN WE HAVE HAD IN A YEAR FROM THE IAEC SCIENTISTS AND OFFICIALS; IT WOULD INDEED BE SAD TO HAVE THESE PEOPLE REVERT TO NON-COOPERATION BECAUSE OF HOLDUP RESULTING FROM A DISPUTE OVER AUTHORITY TO MOVE AHEAD WITH MEASURES THAT THE INDIANS BELIEVE WE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO IN THE WEEK OF THE DOE/GE TEAM VISIT IN JULY. CONGEN CAN ONLY URGE THAT A SERIOUS EFFORT BE MADE BEFORE THE LABOR DAY WEEK END TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE DISPATCH OF THE CUTTER CHOPPER AND TO URGE THAT THE REPRODUCIBLES BE DESPATCHED IMMEDIATELY BY A RELIABLE MEANS.

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